GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3251
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2004
UTILISATION OF VDOs/SPOs FOR CURBING MILITANCY ATTACK
Singh Chaudhary Lal

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services of VDOs/SPOs are being utilized for curbing the militancy attacks prevailing in different parts of J & K;

(b) if so, the total number of persons engaged and the number of persons died in such attacks and nature of arms provided to them during the last three years;

(c) whether the Union Government has allocated any separate fund for their rehabilitation;

(d) if so, the total amount earmarked and the present status of their salaries, perks, uniform and employment on compassionate ground on deaths; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government for providing them all the such facilities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The approved strength of Special Police Officers (SPOs) is 23200 and of Special Police Officers Grade-I who are Ex-Servicemen is 2274. As per information made available by the State Government, 106 members of Village Defence Committees (VDCs) and 371 SPOs have died in terrorist violence between 1996 and November 30, 2004. As per the Scheme formulated by the State Government, each VDC consisting of civilian volunteers with a nucleus of 2 or 3 SPOs is provided with .303 rifle/7.62mm bolt-action rifles and required rounds of ammunitions. In some cases, higher grade weaponry and ammunition as well as communication equipments are provided depending upon the sensitivity of the area as decided by the local police, taking into account the ground situation.

(c) to (e): The Central Government reimburses the State Government Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty thousand only) per year towards honorarium, training, etc. for each SPO, Rs. 24000/- (Rupees Twenty four thousand only) to each SPO (Grade-I) and Rs. 2.00 lakhs (Rupees two lakhs only) for payment, as ex-gratia to the next of kin of each SPO (including SPO Grade-I), killed in action against terrorists.